

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – August 2026

District Councillor contact details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services, please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

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Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for: advice and support with money; help with food costs; money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help with phone bill costs; employment support through Work Well; and information on foodbanks.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support and how to stay healthy and well.

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-hubs>

Help for people facing a financial crisis

The Crisis & Resilience Fund supports people facing unexpected financial difficulties, such as loss of job or benefit or if an appliance (cooker, fridge freezer) has broken down and they have no means to pay for another one. It is being temporarily managed by Citizens Advice Cambridge & District until a new scheme is introduced in October 2026.

More information and an online form are available at:
<https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/about-us/our-projects/>.

Community and health

Cool spaces across South Cambs

SCDC has compiled a list of venues across the district that people can visit to stay cool, particularly on high temperature days. It also has tips to help keep homes cool. Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/staying-cool

Steady On Your Feet – Practical advice to reduce your risk of falls

Steady On Your Feet is an online falls assessment and prevention tool that offers advice and guidance to help you understand some of the common causes of falls, and take simple, practical steps to reduce your risk. From medication and vision to balance, sleep and nutrition, each page provides useful tips to help you stay safe, active and independent.

<https://cambridgeshire-and-peterborough.steadyonyourfeet.org/information-advice>

Connections Bus Project – Generation Game

The Generation Game is a fun, interactive 10-week course that will help young people develop the skills, confidence and knowledge to become a caring and confident visitor to older people, gaining qualifications, friends and building valuable experience. The sessions will take place every Thursday 4.15pm – 5.45pm at All Saints Church, Milton from 10 September - £20 for the whole course. You can find out more and enrol at: [Generation Game Courses – The Connections Bus Project](#).

New rail-led tourism trail

A new Cam Valley [website](#) brings together inspiration for days out, information about the rail line, and insight into supporting local stations, communities and sustainable travel. Whether it's planning a visit or looking for a greener way to get around, the website is designed to help people discover new places to enjoy and make the most of the railway that connects them. Based around Foxton, Meldreth, Shepreth, Whittlesford Parkway, Shelford and the newly opened Cambridge South stations, the website is designed to be easy to navigate and help transform the experience at the six rail stations. Highlights linked to the routes include Wimpole Estate, Imperial War Museum Duxford, Shepreth Wildlife Park, Fowlmere RSPB, and over 40 small rural businesses including independent cafés, pubs, farm shops and attractions within walking or cycling distance of stations.

There are guides, digital maps and QR codes, making information easy to access. Routes include clear information about terrain, distances and facilities helping people of all ages and abilities choose what works for them - whether that is walking, cycling or wheelchair and pram-friendly routes. There will also be easy to follow wayfinding boards at the six stations to help visitors confidently plan their day - whether they fancy a gentle village stroll, a family-friendly bike ride or a longer circular cycle route of around 35 miles.

Cam Valley Community Rail Partnership received £25,000 of grant funding to launch the Cam Valley Gateway. By promoting rail and active travel, the Cam Valley Gateway supports low-carbon tourism, healthy lifestyles and local economies. Funding was from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) which is overseen by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and delivered by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Summer cycle training for adults, families and children

Throughout the summer, Cambridgeshire County Council is providing funded cycle training sessions, to help improve residents' confidence, skills and safety when cycling.

The programme has been designed to cater for a wide range of participants, including:

- Adult learn-to-ride and confidence sessions
- Family cycling sessions
- Women-only sessions
- Beginner sessions for children

Sessions will take place on weekdays, weekends and during school holidays to maximise accessibility. In South Cambridgeshire, sessions are based at Histon, Cambourne and Sawston.

To find out more and book a session, please visit: <https://grafhamwater.cinolla.com/grafham-water/category/south-cambridgeshire-funded-cycle-training>.

Public consultation on the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan until 25th September 2026

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are producing a Joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will help determine how Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire grow over the next 20 years, influencing where new homes, jobs and community facilities are located, how development supports climate goals, and how infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

Current forecasts indicate that around 50,000 new homes will be needed between 2024 and 2045. Around 37,000 of these homes are already planned through existing permissions and allocations, but future growth must be carefully managed to ensure communities have the transport links, services, green spaces and utilities they need.

The Plan has been developed jointly by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - shaped by years of public engagement. Over 8,400 comments submitted during the most recent consultation prompted further work by officers and helped refine the policies and proposals across the Plan. As a result, a number of changes from the previous plan published late last year have been made in the version now being consulted upon.

The updated Plan also reflects the ongoing work to address some of Greater Cambridge's most significant challenges, including housing demand, water supply constraints, transport infrastructure and future employment needs.

Unlike earlier consultations, this final stage is more narrowly focused on whether the Plan is "sound" and meets national planning requirements. Responses will therefore need to focus on whether the Plan is justified by the evidence, effective in achieving its objectives, deliverable and consistent with national planning policy. The consultation is the last opportunity for communities to comment on the Plan – which at this stage is called the Proposed Submission version - and its evidence base. After this stage, the Plan will be submitted to Government and examined by an independent Planning Inspector.

Both online and in person events are planned to allow you to find out more about the proposals. To view the Plan, submit comments and find details of the events, visit www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan. Paper copies of the Local Plan are available at the councils' offices in Cambridge and Cambourne and at Cambridge Central and Cambourne libraries. The consultation closes on Friday 25 September 2026.

In case it is helpful, since the previous draft, changes include:

- A slight decrease in the number of new homes proposed up to 2045 (drop of 99 to give a total of 48,096)
- Grey belt has been identified, but no change in previous position that there is no general need for green belt release (exceptions are proposed green belt release at Cambridge Biomedical Campus and the Babraham Research Campus).
- Progression of the plans for Cambourne North including modelling of transportation and refinement of boundaries, density, landscape sensitivity, infrastructure and deliverability.
- Reduction of the proposed size of the Grange Farm site (down from 6,000 to 4,500 homes) and developed the policy on protection of heritage assets and provision of infrastructure.
- Site allocation for existing expansion land at the Wellcome Genome Campus and a wider policy area to cover growth of the campus
- The Clifton Road and Cambridge Leisure sites have been merged into a single site allocation to recognise the connections between them as well as the confirmed station entrance as part of EWR
- In the Climate change theme there is a new policy on sustainable retrofit (CC/SR: Sustainable Retrofit), more requirements for managing overheating, refined thresholds for Whole Life Carbon and Circular Economy Assessments, and a water efficiency target of 90 litres per day per person
- In the Biodiversity and green spaces theme there is a new policy BG/UGF: Urban Greening Factor, with a revised BG/EO: full Accessible greenspace standards policy and a revised approach to Protected Open Space
- In the Wellbeing and Social Inclusion theme there have been changes to restrict the proliferation of betting shops, to provide construction jobs for local people, and work to safeguard pubs.
- More guidance on how appropriate parking levels should be identified
- A clearer requirement on timing of infrastructure to align with development

Full council motion on sewage in our rivers

In July, SCDC councillors supported a motion condemning the scale of sewage dumping by water companies, both nationally and in local rivers which are rare chalk stream habitats. The motion urged the UK government to replace Ofwat with a stronger regulator, boost funding for environmental enforcement, and ensure residents don't bear the cost of infrastructure upgrades while water companies profit. The Council resolved to write to both the Secretary of State for Environment and Anglian Water demanding tougher action and progress updates on reducing local sewage outflows.

You can view the motion (and the minutes of the debate once published) at <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=410&MId=10464&Ver=4> or you can watch the meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzjYkASQEc> (approx. 2 hours 31 mins).

Full council motion on healthcare infrastructure

In July, SCDC councillors supported a motion highlighting that Cambridgeshire has among the lowest per-person GP funding in the country and that rapid population growth has left our hospitals over capacity. The motion noted that the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation has committed to infrastructure-led growth. The Council resolved to write to the Chair of the Development Corporation stressing the need for health infrastructure, raising residents' concerns, and inviting an update on how it will work with the Integrated Care Board to deliver this in Greater Cambridge.

You can view the motion (and the minutes of the debate once published) at <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=410&MId=10464&Ver=4> or you can watch the meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzjYkASQEc> (approx. 3 hours 8 mins).

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

On the 16th July, the Government announced decisions on local government reorganisation proposals in 14 areas across the country. However, while the four options submitted by councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were considered, ministers said more time was needed before a final decision could be reached.

During a subsequent meeting with officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), council leaders reiterated the importance of securing a decision as early as possible. While the Government has indicated that a decision will be made by October, leaders stressed that an earlier conclusion would provide greater certainty and help meet the demanding timetable for establishing new councils that are safe, legally compliant and able to continue delivering high-quality services to residents and businesses.

Leaders and Chief Executives from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities were informed by Government officials that the information submitted in support of all four proposals was comprehensive, with no additional evidence required.

The former Secretary of State highlighted the national importance of the Cambridge region and said the delay was intended to ensure sufficient time is taken to reach the right decision for the area.

Despite the uncertainty, Council leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to working together collaboratively throughout the process and to delivering the best possible outcomes for local communities, residents and businesses.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is one of only two areas where a decision has been deferred, alongside West Sussex.